

MAY, 1963 • 50¢

AMERICAN Cinematographer

*International Journal of Motion Picture
Photography and Production Techniques*

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How The Producers Service House Aids Film Makers

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Col. John Glenn watches space capsule "Friendship 7" be launched for epic flight



At Cape Canaveral, as against the odds, Arriflex is given the honor of filming the launch of the USS Intrepid



Carroll is seen in a world map at the launch of the USS Intrepid



Arriflex assigned to filming launch of the USS Intrepid from background location



Arriflex is used to photograph the launch of the USS Intrepid from background location



From left: "Friendship 7" is recovered from Atlantic and launched aboard

Arriflex is proud to have contributed to the official recording of Col. John Glenn's epic spaceflight in "Friendship 7". Strategic placement of 12 Arriflex 16mm cameras, with a battery of lenses, helped co-ordinate tracking and filming of the event in Cape Canaveral, Bermuda, Nigeria, Australia, Hawaii, Mexico, California, Texas and aboard the Aircraft

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Carrier Randolph in the Atlantic. "From Missiles to Microbes" Arriflex 16mm and 35mm motion picture cameras are sharing in today's most sophisticated ventures into the frontiers of science and industry. In research and development, in the studio or on location Arriflex motion picture cameras do the job better, faster and more economically.

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Cinematographer

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PHOTOGRAPHY AND PRODUCTION TECHNIQUES

MAY, 1963

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ON THE COVER

UNING UP A TICKET—Increasingly moving camera shot of Deney Kaye for Columbia Pictures' *The Men From The Desert*. Click! Operating the photography is Hal Mohr, ASC, standing in back of camera and playing beam of all light on Kaye from *The Gun* mounted on car hood. The Mitchell camera is mounted low to take in both Kaye and background as car moves down street. Crowding behind camera is *Shower* frame. *Twelve*—Photo by Peter Hall

ARTHUR E. GAVIN, Editor

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INDUSTRY NEWS

News briefs of industry activities, products and programs

Cinemas Has Competitor in British D-150 System

A new ultra-widescreen process, Dimension 150, said to be comparable to the dimensions of the original Cinema is scheduled to be unveiled for the public sometime in 1966. Initial experimentation will be a feature to be made in England by John Hales and Lothar Wölle under the supervision of Louis de Rochemont.

Discussion 150 is first new process to offer competition to Cinerama since the short-lived Cimmimide process faded from scene a few years ago. It uses a single, specially-printed film for exhibition and in this respect further competes with the new Cinerama process which employs new single-film projection print and will debut in Hollywood in November with the presentation of Stanley Kramer's "Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad World." It is not known if the D 150 process is compatible, projection-wise, with Cinemascope.

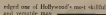
With D-150, picture is photographed on regular Tri-X negative, same as new Cinemascope, with the camera fitted with special lenses having an arc of view range of 50 degrees to 150 degrees. Widest arc achieved with the original 8 panel Cinemascope camera was 146 degrees.

Advantage of using single 70mm negative is both the Cinecama and D-150 processes as the resultant elimination of lines of demarcation between the three picture panels on the screen, also ability to print down releases to conventional 35mm, where desired.

William Maller, Veterinarian
Cincinnati, Ohio, Dies

William C. Meller, ASC, who last month was compelled because of illness to withdraw as director of photography on "The Greatest Story Ever Told," George Stevens production, died April 30 while hospitalized following recent surgery.

A two-time Academy Award winner for photographic achievement ("A Place In The Sun," 1951 and "Diary Of Anne Frank," 1959) Moller was for many years under contract to 20th Century-Fox studios. He was awarded



William C. Mueller

proved his versatility shooting everything from westerns to comedies, to Bing Crosby & Bob Hope musicals. He probably photographed more productions starring Paramount's then pet glamour-girl, Dorothy Lamour, than any other cameraman.

He had been a member of the American Society of Cinematographers since 1933 and was a member of an exclusive group in that organization who had received Gold 25-year Membership cards. His sister, Mrs. Dorothy M. Barker of Los Angeles survives.

New ASC Members

Recently elected to membership in the American Society of Cinematographers were Walter Beyer, *Associate*, and Robert Hauser, *Active*. Beyer heads the ASC's Research and Educational Committee as Chairman. Hauser has directed the photography of such TV film series as "Combat," "Desilu Playhouse," "Bus Stop," and "Yancy Derrero."

Joseph A. Tonney, Founder
of S.O.S. Handed

A testimonial luncheon honoring Joe Tamm, founder of S.O.S. Photo Graphics, Inc., New York, was given the industry leader April 23 in Atlantic City, N. J., during gathering of S.M.P.T.E. conventioners there. Host was Allen C. Mersau, who succeeds Tamm as President of the company.

Taney, one-time newspaper reporter, manager of an automotive supply house, and technician with the old Metropolitan Studio in Ft. Lee, launched the business that ultimately was to become known as "S.O.S." in 1926.

Continued on Page 354

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Color Laboratory

INDUSTRY NEWS

Continued from Page 234

In the mid-thirties, a merger with International Theatre Accessories Corp. saw the business well on its way to success and by the end of World War II it had become important as a major supplier of motion picture production equipment.

In the mid-fifties, progress of the company under Tancey's guidance led to company opening a western office in Hollywood with Alan Marcusky as manager. Eight years later, an expansion move culminated in changing the company name to S.O.S. Photo-Gate Optics, Inc., Tancey's retirement as president, and Marcusky's elevation to head of the company.



STATION FILM technicians are demonstration of California lighting equipment in Rome.

Mole-Richardson Sponsors Italian Industry Meeting

The opening technical meeting for the 1963 season for the A.T.I.C. (Associazione Technici Italiani Cinema fotografici) was held in Rome last month, sponsored by the Mole-Richardson (Italia) organization.

The meeting was attended by more than 100 members of the motion picture and television industries of Italy. Highlight of the meeting was an address by Mr. Gordon Cook, of Rank-Taylor-Holston, London, who spoke on "Recent Advances in Cine Optics."

Following the meeting, various types of film production equipment represented by Mole-Richardson were demonstrated. In the photo above Mr. Ing. Cook, on the right, of Mole-Richardson, is shown demonstrating the new Color Tron Quartz-King "Dual" light to cameramen and technicians members of the A.T.I.C.

General Film Labor Marks Tenth Anniversary

The president of General Film Laboratories, William E. Gephart, Jr., commemorated his firm's 10th birthday last month with the shortest speech on record for such an occasion. "We

are surprised to be as big as we are," he said, simply.

A division of Pacific Industries, Inc. since 1956, General is one of the major Hollywood processors of professional motion picture film, with a yearly total of approximately 140 million feet of color and black-and-white film, including theatrical feature films, television programs and commercials, and industrial, educational, and government films.

During its ten-year span, the company reports, it has introduced to the industry the first automated control of printing processes, and the first computerized production-control system. Other novelties include development of high-speed processing for "fast" films, which was the backbone of the company's business in its early years, and the pioneering and perfecting of the 35/32 method of producing film negatives and prints.



Production Brass View Effects For "Mad-World"

Arthur Krim, President, and a contingent of other United Artists top brass, held final production conferences at Film Effects of Hollywood, where photographic special effects for Stanley Kramer's "Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad World" are being completed. Linwood C. Dunn, ASC, President of Film Effects, demonstrated how miniatures, mattes, optical effects and animation are being used in the Kramer blockbuster. Seen in above photo, taken in front of the Film Effects of Hollywood Studio are: (l-r) Earl Krimmer, Al Harwitz, Dunn, Stanley Kramer, George Schaeffer, Meyer Berk, Robert S. Benjamin (Chairman of the Board, United Artists), Krim, Arnold Picker (Executive Vice President, United Artists), James R. Veldt (Vice President in Charge of Sales, United Artists), Robert F. Blumend (Vice President, United Artists West Coast office), David Picker (United Artists Vice President), and Eric Plonkw, (Vice President in Charge of Foreign Distribution).

Continued on Page 234

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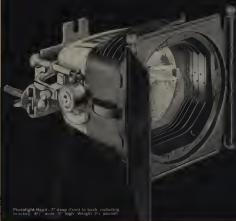
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virtually the flexibility of a complete lighting system. Lets you spread, spot, diffuse, etc. The standard dual-purpose flood lens, for instance, affords you a range of beam spreads up to 110°.

THE NEW SYLVAC CONTROL tells you exact voltage across the lamp, and allows you to dial the precise color temperature you require. For black and white work, this same unit gives you quick, easy, finger-tip control of light intensity and lighting ratios. And the SYLVAC Control also lets you control the SUN GUN Photo Light from any position in the shooting area, with suitable extension cord.

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Example: Producer Sam Spiegel, and Director David Lean, for Academy Award Winning **LAWRENCE OF ARABIA.**



Director David Lean in white hat, pointing, is directing Academy Award winning *Lawrence of Arabia* in hot sands of Jordan Desert. Birns & Sawyer equipped the 16-month production with the Academy

Motion Picture Research Council Crane and Worrall geared head shown in photo, which aided in a small way achieving the award for excellence in cinematography.

Making an Academy Award Winning Picture

Nominated for 10 Academy Awards, including Best Cinematography in color, *Lawrence of Arabia* achieved spectacular chase scenes by building a half-mile long "private railroad". A Birns & Sawyer "Academy" Crane with geared head, mounted on a flatcar, not only kept pace with galloping riders but enabled the special 70mm Panavision Technicolor camera to make steady, jerk free panning while swinging out for close-ups and down for low level shots.

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NATION WIDENS

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AMERICAN-INTERNATIONAL

MARY: Bala, "Black Sabbath" Galaxy
Prods. AFI, Fairman color) with Boris Karl
off and Mark Damon. Maria Bava, director

MARIEL BERNSTEIN, ASC, "Pete" (SWP
Prod., Panaflex) shooting in Spain) with
Betsy Sullivan and Martha Hyer. Sidney W.
Pink, director

FLYING COUSIN, ASC, "The Married Father"
(Color) with Victoria Price and Debra
Paget. Roger Corman, producer-director

ELIMORE STUDIOS, N.Y.

JACK PROCTOR, "Naked City"

EDGEMORE STUDIOS—New York

GEOFFREY STUTTELL, ASC, "Car 54 Where Are
You?"

CAISCADE STUDIOS

BERRY FREEMAN, ASC, Commercials

EDMUND BRIDGES, ASC, Commercials

TYLER STARR, Commercials

WALTER HOFF, ASC, Commercials

QCS—N.Y.

CHARLES MACK, LEO BOMAL, ROBERT CLAM
color, "CBS Reports"

FRED HOFFMAN, NICK ZINCAL, "Cordell
Green"

COLUMBIA STUDIOS

GO. FAYLER, "Doctor Strangelove Or How
I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the
Bomb" (Twentieth Century-Fox, shooting in Europe)
with Peter Sellers and George C. Scott.
Stanley Kubrick, producer-director

ELTON SHAWVER, ASC, BOB LOWERY, "The
Cardinal" (Gemma Prod., Twentieth Century-Fox)
with Tom Tryon and Tony Schneider. Otto Preminger,
producer-director

ROBERT BRONKOV, ASC, "Vulgar Gays in
Paris" (Harry Brinkley Prod., Eastman color)
Shooting in Rome) with James Duvall and
Gandy Carol. Paul Wendell, director

JOHNIE BROWN, ASC, "Under the Yew Tree"
(Henson-Swift Prods., Eastman color) with
Jack Lemmon and Carol Lyness. David
Swick, director

CONTRAPULS CHALLIN, "The Long Ships"
(Warwick Films Prods., Technicolor Technicolor
color, shooting in Yugoslavia) with Richard
 Widmark and Robert Fortner. Jack Cardiff,
director

GEORGE HARRINGTON, ASC, "Fall Folie"
(Youngman-Lamert Prods.) with Henry Fox
and Dan O'Herry. Sydney Lamert, pro-
ducer-director

GARY ANDERSON, ASC, "Dance Band Show"

ROBERT BRONKOV, ASC, Commercials

MALCOLM GREENMAN, ASC, Commercials

ELKINS SHUTTER, "Lulu" (Gemma Prods.,
location in N.Y. & Md.) Robert Rosen,
director

FRED GARTLEY, ASC, "Hail"

CHARLES WILSON, "Expo"

JACK MARTA, "Route 66"

ROBERT WOODS, "Dennis the Menace",
Commercials

ROBERT GARTLEY, ASC, Commercials

STEFAN KAMINSKY, "Hugues", Commercials

JOHN THIBEAUX STUDIO

ELI WEISS, ASC, Commercials

FILMWAY STUDIOS—New York

MOORE BARTMAN, ASC, "The Defenders"

GENERAL SERVICE STUDIOS

LESTER SEIDEN, ASC, "The Beverly Hills
Cop"

ROBERT MORGAN, "Adventures of Gull &
Barney"

MAX WEISS, ASC, Commercials

DESIG—Gower

RAY FOSTER, ASC, Commercials

Continued on Page 265



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CINEMATOGRAPHERS

Founded January 8, 1919, The American
Society of Cinematographers is composed of
the leading directors of photography in
Hollywood motion picture and TV film
studios. Its membership also includes
cinematographers in foreign lands. Mem-
bership is by invitation only.

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Seitz, Philip Tarkenton, James Van
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Q & A

Technical Questions and Answers

Q.—Having just purchased a second-hand Bell & Howell 16mm Magnetic optical sound projector, I would like your opinion as to the feasibility of utilizing it to record the narration for a series of instructional films I am producing. Is the sound obtained with this machine considered of professional quality? In other words, is the quality commercially acceptable? I plan to transfer the original sound recorded with this machine to sound striped release prints by direct recording. Are there any hazards to be encountered here?—R. R. L., Portland, Oregon

A.—General Film Laboratories, in the April, 1961 issue of its monthly publication, *Revised*, featured a comprehensive article dealing with the recording of magnetic sound on striped 16mm film which we believe will answer most of your questions. We have prevailed upon General to permit us to condense and reprint the article here, hoping it will prove helpful to you and to a number of other readers who have written to us on the same subject.

Bell & Howell Company in 1952, introduced its 16mm projector capable of reproducing not only the standard 16mm optical sound track, but equipped also to record, erase, or play back sound on a magnetic stripe applied to the edge of a 16mm film.

Much was promised by the new type of sound projector ("Now, you too can be a sound motion-picture producer"), and many new problems were raised ("How do I know some place won't erase my words and put on his own version?" "Will the stripe stick on the film?" "How long will the sound last?")

Now, nine years later, what has happened? What is our experience? How is the magnetic stripe track being utilized?

On the negative side, owning and operating a magnetic projector didn't automatically, of itself, create a capable producer out of just anybody. Some who bought the new projectors and had somewhat vague ideas about the machines helping them solve production or promotional problems were disappointed.

But, on the positive side, the availability of magnetic striping on film and of combination 16mm optical-magnetic sound projections had various specific and delicate advantages for

both the producer and user of educational and industrial films.

First and most obvious, by utilizing a magnetic stripe on 16mm print material and a combination magnetic-optical projector, sound may be easily recorded, erased or changed at will.

Second, a magnetic stripe may be utilized on already processed original or print material to make possible a sound track where optical sound was not provided for.

Third, a magnetic stripe can be varied in width so that, for example, instead of the normal full-width (100 mil) track, a 50 mil track may be placed to cover only half of the width of a normal optical track—so that either the optical or the magnetic sound may be played in projection.

Fourth, within limits magnetic sound striping is the most economical choice for a sound track when film has been exposed in the camera for a single showing and throw-away, or when a very few prints are to be ordered.

This must be measured against the availability of magnetic projectors wherever the film is to be used, and also against the possibility that more prints might be required later on—in which case the standard optical track would eventually be the more economical.

Fifth, a magnetic stripe may be placed on unexposed camera film for single-system projection—recording sound on the location and at the same time as the photographs are being exposed. This is a special situation use, subject to most of the limitations that optical single system sound has.

And, with the full width (100 mil) magnetic stripe has the potential of accepting a practical range of sound frequencies approximately 50 to 8000 cycles.

Now, how does theory translate into practice?

Let's take up our last point, first—the quality of the recorded sound. True, the wide stripe does accept the sound range mentioned, but there are other important and limiting factors. On the production side, there is microphone design and placement, acoustics, and the basic composition on film movement that's necessarily built into a projector-reorder. To be a projector, film movement must be intermittent. To be a recorder, film movement—ideally—should be constant.

Continued on Page 109



ARRIFLEX® 35

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camera feature. It provides continuous through-the-lens viewing while filming... eliminates parallax! And it all but eliminates an assortment of finder correcting gear most other cameras still require. Whenever film releases must meet the highest standards of theater-quality, Arriflex 35s are chosen. They're lightweight, so they make excellent newsreel and location cameras, rugged, so they can take extremes of climate, dependably precise under all conditions... ideally suited for every assignment from risqué tracking to full-scale studio production!



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(INCOMPARABLE VERSATILITY) The Arriflex 35 is shown as a hand camera (left), with 400 foot magazine, matte box, and 16 volt variable speed 80 motor, and as a studio sound camera, fully equipped with 450 foot magazine (center), and with 1,000 foot film (right).



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perforation (2280) at \$8.50
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WHAT'S NEW

IN EQUIPMENT, ACCESSORIES, SERVICES



CINE-VOICE CONVERSION

Florman & Babb, Inc., 68 West 45th St., New York 36, N.Y., announces a new, improved, Cine-Voice conversion for 400-ft and 1200-ft Mitchell magazine. Important new feature is true torque motor, powerful enough to pull an entire 1200 ft film load. Motor cooling is effected even during continuous operation, through a new and unique system which causes it to idle at reduced (1/3) power, when film is running through, it resumes full power.

Other important features include: rear camera viewing light, a motor housing which completely encloses the torque motor and Vocoder camera, affording complete protection and insulation against weather, etc., and an effectively silenced Vocoder camera.

The F&B conversion accepts 400 ft and 1200-ft Mitchell magazines, in clude torque motor and belt, costs \$445.00, and may be adapted to any model Cine-Voice camera.

Delivery in 15 days. Also available are two accessories: behind-the-lens filter slot, \$15.00; and lens turret lock, for movie lens operation, \$25.00.



ARRI LENS EXTENSION TUBE

An extension tube (right) which changes the effective focal length of Arri lens for closeups is made by Blinn & Sawyer, Hollywood. The extension tube is designed so that it can be used singly or in multiples. Con-

struction is rich looking, black anodized aluminum, precision turned. Priced at \$18.00, it is available from dealers or from Blinn & Sawyer Cine Equipment, 6424 Santa Monica Boulevard, Hollywood 38, California.

NEW 10-TO-1 ZOOM LENS

The new 10-to-1 (25mm to 250mm) Angulon zoom lens is now available on order from Mitchell Camera Corp. Shipments are being made within 30 days following receipt of orders, the company states. Full information is available from Mitchell Camera Corp., 666 W. Harvard St., Glendale, Calif.



ADD-A-UNIT EXTENSION PLATES

The Camera Mart, Inc., 1815 Broadway, New York 23, announces its new Camera Add-A-Unit Extension Plate for Moviolas, designed for greater flexibility in adding extra sound heads to Moviola Series 20 editing machines. The Add-A-Unit plate is instantly attached to the Moviola without drilling into the cabinet and bolting it to the chassis. Unit permits adding two additional sound heads to a Moviola so that film editor can check three separate sound tracks, if necessary. Now, reduced price is \$259.50.

LEVITAN FILM COMPUTER

The Levitan Film Computer, distributed by Camera Equipment Corp., 315 W. 43rd St., New York, N.Y., is a 4-way pocket-size computer for film production personnel and advertising agencies dealing in TV film commercials. Computer indicates time, footage, film frames and the number of words of narration or commercial spot is any given time period for.

Continued on Page 272

Inspect every foot before it leaves your plant with the HFC High Speed Heavy Duty Inspection Projectors -- 16mm & 35mm models now available.

NEW

The projector is a converted front shutter Simplex with a two gun intermittent. 16mm or 35/32 film runs at a speed of 144 feet per minute while 35mm film runs at a speed of 165 feet per minute.

1. A variac controls the light intensity.
2. A 500 watt lamp is used for 16mm and a 1,000 watt for 35mm (a blower is used to cool the lamphouse).
3. A 2 1/2 inch projection lens is furnished with each unit.
4. A start-stop lever controls the power to the lamp and motor.
5. The magazine and take up core takes up to 3,000 ft. of film.
6. Upper guide rollers are made to handle the film from either direction of the feed reel.
7. A free wheeling take off flange is provided in the magazine.
8. A lamp near the takeup reel permits hand inspection of the film prior to takeup.

NOUVEAU

Le projecteur contient un obturateur Simplex inferieur transforme avec deux clavettes intermittentes. Les films de 16mm ou 35/32 tournent avec une vitesse de 144 pieds à la minute, tandis que les films de 35mm tournent avec une vitesse de 165 pieds à la minute.

1. Le regulateur de voltage d'intensité d'éclairage.
2. La lampe de 500 watt est nécessaire pour les films de 16mm, et de 1000 watt, pour les films de 35mm (un ventilateur est avec pour rafraîchir la chambre de la lampe).
3. L'objectif de 2 1/2" est installé.
4. La manette de mise en marche et d'arrêt contrôle en même temps la lampe et le moteur.
5. La boîte de films avec noyau peut contenir 3000 pieds de film.
6. La tête supérieure est constituée de manivres de recevoir le film dans les deux directions, normale par la bobine centrale.
7. Une roue est installée pour libérer rapidement le film de la boîte.
8. La lampe se trouve près de la bobine receveuse, et donne toute facilité pour inspecter le film à main dans le projecteur.



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NUOVO

Questo proiettore sono Simplex trasformabili, obturatore al fronte, meccanismo di scatto di due porte. La velocità di proiezione in 16 o 35/32mm e di 144 piedi per minuto, e in 35mm, di 165 piedi per minuto.

1. Controllo manuale delle luminosità delle lampade.
2. Lampade di 500 watt per 16mm e di 1000 watt per 35mm.
3. Obiettivo di proiezione di 2 1/2".
4. Maniglia per controllo di motore e lampada di proiezione.
5. La cassetta porta pellicola può contenere 3000 piedi.
6. I rulli superiori di guida sono costruiti per operare con film proveniente di entrambi delle bobine avvolgibile.
7. Disco con manovellare sponibile nel magazzino.
8. Una lampadina illumina la bobina avvolgibile permettendo l'ispezione manuale del film prima che si avvolga nel proiettore.

NUEVO

Esta máquina es un projector simplex convertido, obturador al frente y movimiento intermitente a doble grifa. Para 16mm o 35/32mm, la velocidad fija de proyección es de 144 pies por minuto, para 35mm es de 165 pies por minuto.

1. Un regulador controla la intensidad de la lámpara de proyección.
2. Para 16mm se usa una lámpara de 500 watt, y una de 1000 watt para 35mm (un chorro de aire refresca las lámparas en ambas casos).
3. Cada unidad está provista de un leñe de proyección de 2 pulgadas y media.
4. Una palanca de control opera el motor y la lámpara simultáneamente.
5. Capacidad de proyección: rollos de hasta 3000'.
6. Los rodillos de guía superiores operan con la película en ambas direcciones.
7. La tapa de la bobina de carga es desmontable.
8. Una lámpara ubicada junto a la bobina de toma permite la inspección manual de la película antes que se rebobine en la bobina superior del proyector.

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Model SE15-1 Per No. 3003415
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Three sprocket
16mm Synchronizer
with
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WHAT'S NEW

Continued from Page 379

35mm, 16mm or 8mm film.

Commercial film standards are shown with diagrams and markings that list footage and sound track lengths for 1-minute, 20-second and 10-second TV commercials. On reverse side of computer is photography-projection chart that lists both live action and animation shooting fields and safety projection areas for both motion picture projection and television.

A fourth feature is the Standard Wipe Chart illustrating 120 of the most frequently used wipes in their logical sequence. List price of computer is \$1.00.



SUN GUN CONTROL UNIT

Sylvania Electric Products, Inc., 740 3rd Ave., New York 17, N.Y., is marketing a new electronic power control unit called Sylvarc for regulating the light output and color temperature of Sun Gun photo lights when used for professional photography. The Model SV-9 operates from standard 120-volt A.C. current. At this voltage, a simple adjustment of the controls varies light output of a Sun Gun from zero to full brightness, or permits selecting color temperatures up to 3400° K. Unit weighs 5 lbs., is 7"x6½"x1½" in size.

A second model, SV-20, will accommodate two 1000-watt Sun Guns or several photostrips up to 20 exposures. The same control results may be had with this unit as with the Model SV-9.

Simultaneously with announcement of its Sylvarc control units, Sylvania also announced two new voltage boosters for use with Sun Gun photo light equipment under sub-standard voltage conditions. Designed for use in conjunction with the Sylvarc controls described above, the Flexicon Voltage Boosters make it possible to attain the

Continued on Page 380

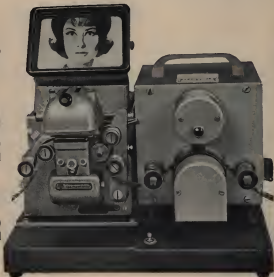


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SEE OTHER S.O.S. OPTICISTS ON PAGES 276, 280, 288 AND 309



George Folsey, ASC, for many years a top director of photography at MGM, photographed such memorable pictures as "The Ziegfeld Follies," "Meet Me in St. Louis," "Green Dolphin Street," "Seven Brides For Seven Brothers," and "Executive Suite." Of his recent experience in photographing "The Balcony," he says "I can't think of another picture that I've enjoyed more, had less trouble with and more satisfaction in doing."

By HERB A. LIGHTMAN

"The Balcony"—

ESSENTIALLY THE MOST unusual American film of this season (and quite possibly any other season) is the currently-released filmization of Jean Genet's controversial play, "The Balcony," directed by Joseph Strick ("The Savage Eye") and artfully photographed by George Folsey, ASC.

Made on a "quickie" budget of \$112,000 with top-flight actors (Shelley Winters, Peter Falk, Kent Smith, Lee Grant) and key technicians working at scale against a deferred percentage of the profits, "The Balcony" is not a quickie in any sense of the word. It was made entirely in Hollywood on a six-week shooting schedule, with a 22-man crew. Definitely slanted toward the relatively small, unusually sophisticated segment of the filmgoing audience that regularly patronizes art film houses, the picture proves that the well-made art film need not be an exclusively European monopoly, and that such films can have the technical finish and professional quality of Hollywood's best product without resorting to the frantic pace of television film production or the expenditure of a great deal of money.

Almost the entire action of "The Balcony" takes place inside a cavernous movie sound stage representing a unique sort of "establishment" set up to cater to the bizarre whims and fantasies of an all-male clientele that comes there to escape "from the falseness of life into the greater reality of their dreams." On hand to help enact any desired charade is a bevy of beautiful and not-so-beautiful actress-courtesans surrounded by a conglomeration of stage flats, costumes, props and backdrops that are used to create whatever atmosphere the client may require. "We sell illusions," explains Miss Winters, the den mother of this menagerie, in what turns out to be a colossal understatement.

Outside the sound stage, via some superbly edited newswheel footage, a revolution rages through the streets of a nameless city. But inside the dreamy oasis of the establishment business proceeds as usual with a plumber making love like a bishop, a baker impersonating a cavalry general and a mousey accountant slithering down off the judicial bench to carry on like the most masochistic jurist imaginable.

Into this never-never land stalks the Chief of Police, representing the incumbent government of the unidentified locale. He is a scrappy, paranoiac,

Cinematic Illusion Without Confusion

Product of a six-week shooting schedule, "The Balcany" is replete with unique and imaginative photographic touches that add luster to an off-beat story.

richly uniformed type who harangues the populace via radio from within the confines of the sound stage. His speech is a masterpiece of double-talk demagoguery expounded in a furious jargon consisting of idiotic clichés borrowed from real-life political oratory and TV commercials.

The Chief successfully turns the tide of battle in

his favor by setting off remotely controlled explosions that raze the entire rebel sector of the city. Afterwards, in order to present a powerful front to the people, he enlists the aid of the plumber, the baker and the accountant to play the roles of dignitaries who have been liquidated in the conflict.

Dressed in the borrowed raiment of a bishop, a general and a judge, the unlikely trio rides in a motorcade through the city, making pompous speeches as empty as those characteristic of the real

Continued on Page 394

SHIRLEY WINSTON, who plays a sparsely modern in "The Balcany," is seen here with the costume staff at her unique establishment. Here cinematographer Tolson carefully controlled the lighting to point up the bizarre aspects of the scene.





COMPLEX AND COSTLY machines such as this is required for making complicated optical effects such as seen in so many of today's TV commercials. Here Don Marston guides lenses on the Oakberry optical printer at Cinefects Studio in New York to shoot the film for a special effects assignment.

The Producers Service House—Vital Aid To Film Makers

A boon to the producers of TV commercials, they also enable the small producer to embellish his films with opticals and other professional effects that are beyond the capacity of his limited equipment.

By VERN W. PALEN

WHY IS THE PRODUCERS service business booming? To get the answer to this question, the author visited the studios of Cinefects, in New York City. Irving Hecht, president, Jack Present, production manager, and Robert Pitturk, general manager, escorted me on a tour of the premises. After that, we spent a couple of hours in conference.

The pressure of TV deadlines and the complexity of work being done for TV commercials require a very large work capacity at times. A producer may have a campaign involving one or two spots which demand a tremendous amount of effort, with the corresponding need for a lot of equipment to do the particular job.



FIG. 2—THREE FRAMES in the production of a TV commercial for a popular beer are pictured above. The required effect was that of the background scene (middle photo) showing through glass of clear beer (first photo). This effect was accomplished by using color exposures.



FROM a color negative to make scenes of the glass of beer, two prints were made. The required effect was that of the background scene (middle photo) showing through glass of clear beer (first photo). This effect was accomplished by using color exposures.

In both New York and Hollywood, the accelerated growth of film service organizations has been largely due to the expanding TV market with its big pressures for time and ever-increasing complexity of the services required. This involves opticals and animation work and few producers can justify the staff and equipment they would need to perform such activities in their own studios.

Obviously, a producer experiences both surges and lulls in his assignments. The problem, therefore, of being staffed and equipped for the heavy periods would pose an impossible economic situation during the slow periods. Since the service house handles hundreds of customers in contrast to a producer's one or two, many people and many machines can be utilized at full capacity the year round.

The average producer gets his script or story board in rough form from the advertising agency. He has the necessary facilities to put the story together on film in the form of individual scenes. He makes up a work print which is viewed, criticized and discussed with the agency. Once the work print is approved and sound is edited, it is ready for opticals. Today, the complexity of the opticals demanded by agencies makes this a job for experts who can devise new tricks which will accomplish the purpose.

One of the tasks the service house must perform quite frequently involves a scene where a person is watching a movie or a TV set with a live picture in action on the screen. To do this with live shooting makes the job almost prohibitive since it requires use of a camera and projector operating in sync, making the project much more complicated and expensive. It is much simpler to shoot the two scenes separately and give them to a service house to combine. Fig. 3 shows an example where a movie on a screen is combined with a live action scene of a family in the living room.

A job recently completed for the U.S. Army Signal Corps required three images on three TV monitors in a color scene of a control room. The sequence also required multiple changes in the images on the monitors in order to simulate conditions where a monitor shifts scenes and where the operator shifts scenes from monitor to monitor. The service house handled this problem by shooting multiple mattes on its Oxberry animation stand, using drawings of the TV monitor screens properly positioned on the background scene.

First, it was necessary to make a series of hold-back mattes, which allowed the background scene to be exposed separately for each monitor. Using the mattes and interpositives or fine grains on an Oxberry optical printer where exact control can be maintained over positive and exposure, the composite scene was recorded on one film to give the desired effect.

Because the producers service house handles such



FIG. 3—A realistic effect when attempted by superimposed film copies with straight photography. The movie scene on the home movie screen was combined with the live action scene of family in living room by having matte process on optical printer.

a large volume of work, special techniques have been developed and optical equipment of the most advanced design is employed. Motorized animation stands permit precise projection of scenes for preparing the shooting mattes. Special techniques have been devised for handling the mattes on the optical printers in order to assure accurate registration. These machines have aerial image projectors and many other new features which afford complete flexibility in combining mattes and in repositioning scenes.

The Signal Corps job mentioned earlier was made more complex, too, because color had to be balanced in all scenes to provide a realistic and

Continued on Page 294



FIG. 4—Similar to TV scenes is the fact that a commercial for Peter Pan peanut butter. The jar, Peter Pan and the jar of peanut butter were photographed separately and later combined on film composite by having matte process.



RALPH WOOLSEY, behind head-mounted camera, shooting a TV film for Warner Brothers on location near Hollywood

Interview with Ralph Woolsey, ASC

SOME ASPECTS OF PHOTOGRAPHING FILMS FOR TELEVISION

Here is an expert look at television film production today by a director of photography who has photographed both television films and feature productions. In this

interview with Ralph Woolsey, ASC, some interesting aspects of photographing films for various TV film series are explored and compared with feature film photography.

Q—Mr. Woolsey, viewing television film production objectively today what, in your opinion, are the differences if any in the problems encountered by the director of photography shooting films for television as compared with feature films?

A—One area of difference lies in pre-production preparation. For feature films, a lot more money is usually spent and a lot more time is devoted by each department in the studio in the planning of a picture. This is rarely the case with TV films. When a television film gets under way on the sound stage it happens not infrequently that the script for the picture has just barely been approved. I have at times

been assigned to photograph a TV film where the script has undergone many drastic changes before the production was completed. There have been instances where we have photographed sequences and shortly afterward that same day someone would appear on the set with new, revised pages of script for the scenes already shot, and we would then have to re-shoot the scenes in order to incorporate new and different dialogue. This is not typical practice, of course, but it does happen. The most efficient production companies aim to get all scripts fully approved before they start the cameras rolling.

When this happens and the cameraman directing

the photography of the show is given a copy of the script in advance of the show's starting date, it affords him opportunity to study it and plan his lighting and photographic approach.

When a cameraman doesn't see the script until the day he's scheduled to start shooting a show, he goes on the set more or less "cold" and must start working virtually "off the cuff." He can't very well read the script and do his work at the same time.

As a rule, I find it quite satisfactory to work from a story breakdown. There is so much similarity in TV story formats that it is usually no problem to figure out the action and how the story will go. A breakdown provides a synopsis of the action that is to take place on each set in terms of scenes and essential motivation. It indicates also what sets I am to work on that day.

Q—Generally speaking, does the technique of lighting for TV film photography differ from that for feature films? And is there any technique or procedure used in feature film photography that is not applicable to shooting TV films?

A—If we expect the TV viewer to see the action and recognize detail in the picture on the small screens of home receivers, we must use a little broader brush in certain aspects of lighting and photography. In the early days of TV the prevailing idea was that series should be shot in closeups as much as possible and that long shots were to be avoided. The technical improvements in both today's television sets and in the transmission of video programs invalidates such thinking and the long shot is now as important and generally used in TV films as in features. When so much of the action was played in closeups, the audience lost orientation with the

story or its locale. Shooting TV films in the accepted pattern of long shot, medium shot and closeup established for motion pictures in general has greatly enhanced presentation of filmed television dramas.

We used to be told by TV network engineers that there were certain brightness range and contrast limitations to be observed in photographing films for television; that the cameraman must work within these limitations to insure the most satisfactory reproduction of his work on video screens. Experience has proved that these limitations are not as rigid as originally pronounced.

Most cameramen shooting TV films endeavor to keep up with the continuing technical developments in the photography and reproduction of films on TV. Many spend considerable time with engineers and technicians in the industry and in reading the technical journals. I personally have never been one to accede to every demand made by the engineers, yet I have tried to give certain reasonable things. The work of all TV film cameramen still suffers from the lack of DC restoration in black-and-white home receiver circuits; DCR enables a receiver to reproduce blacks as true black and intermediate tones with comparable fidelity so that much more quality of the photography comes through on the TV screen.

Q—Has the speed and pressure demanded in TV film production affected the method of lighting sets to the degree that the final print suffers by comparison with prints of feature films?

A—Generally speaking no. But one must often simplify certain things in lighting sets for TV films where the extra time devoted to lighting for a feature film simply wouldn't pay off.

Continued on Next Page

Ralph Woolsey, ASC, was for a number of years under contract to Warner Brothers as a director of photography. Among the TV film series for which he photographed shows were "Maverick," "Sunset Strip," "Cheyenne," and "Roaring Twenties."

He has at various times lectured on cinematography before students of the Cinema Department of the University of Southern California.



I know that all the television film I shoot is going to be reviewed by projection on a conventional theatre screen by studio production heads, and I want them to see the best possible photographic result. Producers and directors invariably check their TV film productions in this manner; many of them seldom see the same picture televised. If the photography looks good on a theatre screen, it follows that it also will look good when televised—assuming that transmission conditions and the viewer's set are functioning properly.

Q—This matter of good picture results suggests that lighting practice and the lighting equipment used play a major role. Has the photographer of TV films brought about the use of any new lighting equipment?

A—Our basic set lighting hasn't changed much. There have been some improvements made in existing equipment such as high-intensity arc lamps, also some re-designing of conventional lamp housings and accessories. Also, there have been significant improvements made in so-called "boosted-voltage" lighting equipment such as the ColorTrans and Masterlites.

The recently-introduced quartz-iodine lamps held some promise for lighting small sets. More recently, some manufacturers have developed radically new housings to employ this illumination unit, enabling it to produce a variety of light patterns. The March issue of *American Cinematographer* featured an article describing the new quartz-iodine photo lamps developed by ColorTrans, which utilizes this efficient light source in a reflector that affords a range of beam configurations and illumination volume. However, no one to date has successfully combined the QI lamp with a lens-reflector combination that will provide positive beam control similar to our present standard spotlights.

Still another advancement in lighting equipment that has seen little application in film studios is the solid-state dimmer. This is a silicon-controlled rectifier now popular in theatres and some television studios. It requires alternating current whereas most Hollywood film studios utilize direct current for set lighting—chiefly because of the large number of arc lamps used in set lighting. The new silicon rectifier-dimmers are remarkably compact and offer simplified remote and pre-set advantages.

Q—Do you use much arc lighting today in set illumination for TV films?

A—I often use arcs for lighting large sets, but rarely for small interiors. When working on exterior sets, arcs are used to enhance sharpness of detail. Outdoors, arcs are also used for booster light and for illuminating some night scenes.

One thing about TV filming, you shoot hot or cold,

rain or -hine. I have shot scenes in pouring rain and the rain didn't show up on the screen. In one sequence, the rain became so heavy that it began to show on the actors' clothes. The script was quickly re-written to coincide with the rain. But before we could finish the sequence, the rain stopped and we had to move rain-making equipment to the location to complete the sequence with photographic uniformity.

It is often surprising how difficult it is to make falling rain visible in exterior scenes, especially when the set is not rigged for backlighting or cross-lighting. Here arc lighting is essential to highlight the rain effect and give the scene a little "snap."

Q—Have the faster B&W film emulsions been helpful in photographing television films?

A—Yes. Emulsions like Eastman's Dughele X—perhaps the most important film improvement in recent years—enable me to get good quality plus all the advantages of a high-speed film. Some cameramen believed that when negatives of higher speed became available they would be able to use less light and the studios would consequently save money on lighting bills. But what actually happened is that many cameramen simply stopped down the lens, say from $f/4$ to $f/6.3$, and used the same volume of light.

I prefer to flood the existing lights or add diffusion and thus be able to work at the same f /stop as before. If I need the advantage of the extra stop-down the fast emulsion affords, I can remove the diffusers from the lamps or make the set illumination "hotter."

Q—Does this mean that you generally avoid detail that is too sharp?

A—There are often situations where I prefer to keep background detail soft, but the sharpness in the overall picture depends on the magnification relative to audience viewpoint. When we see a picture on the television screen, the reduction in size of the picture in effect increases the depth of field.

Q—It would seem advantageous as well as a means of saving time where a cameraman is shooting a TV series, to have much of the set lighting "fixed" or permanently rigged so that it is more or less ready for instant use when he returns to the set each week. What are your views on this?

A—Where a cameraman is permanently assigned to a TV series there could be advantages in having certain basic backgrounds pre-lit in permanent sets. It happens, however, that in some studios the cameramen shooting established TV series are rotated in their assignments so that a different one shoots a given show each week. And each one, being somewhat of an individualist, has his own ideas how these shows should be lit. There never has been any fixed

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DESIGNED FOR

■ The advantages of shooting motion pictures with a hand-held camera has had a direct influence on the design of both the newer portable cameras and shoulder-support apparatus for use with conventional cameras, both 35mm and 16mm. On this page are pictures and descriptions of three relatively new cameras with built-in shoulder rests for hand-held shooting plus some interesting supporting apparatus that affords similar convenience for newsreel and other mobile cameramen who work with professional 16mm cameras.

■ **PROBABLY THE FIRST AND ONLY** portable camera for wide-screen photography with 65mm film is Panavision's Panaflex 65, weighing but 30 pounds, fully equipped and loaded. The 500-foot magazine mounts on the camera at an angle and rests on the operator's shoulder to provide solid support for hand-held shooting. When not used as a hand-held camera, the pistol grip and curved shoulder support are readily detachable so camera may be used tripod-mounted. In the works is a new, improved reflex model having same appearance, positive reflex viewing, and a follow-focus finder and 1000-foot magazines as companion equipment.

THE NEW FRENCH ECLAIR 16MM REFLEX camera is of radically new design, but retaining the basic reflex and detachable film magazine features of the Eclair Camerette. Like the Panaflex and the Mitchell Mark II Reflex (pictured below) the new Eclair 16mm Reflex is so designed that the magazine rests on the operator's shoulder to provide support for the camera when used hand-held.



■ **A COMPACT, LIGHTWEIGHT, INVERTED** 400-foot magazine that mounts back and below the camera and also provides a rubber-cushioned indentation between the film chambers that serves as a shoulder rest, is a salient feature of the new Mitchell Mark II Reflex 35mm camera. The camera's full aperture 128 fps movement is keyed and can be removed and replaced without need for re-timing. Reflex finder image is exceptionally brilliant. Assuring optimum exposure over entire frame area is a focal-plane variable-disc shutter. A built-in sync signal generator enables camera to be used for synchronous sound recording with remote magnetic tape recorders.



SHOOTIN' FROM THE SHOULDER

THE MOBILE CAMERAMAN who works mostly with a hand-held 16mm camera created a need for an efficient and dependable support for his camera, especially when he switched to the heavier Auricon sound cameras or the Arriflex. For a long time he had to make his own, but more recently some excellent supports called shoulder-pods or belt-pods have appeared on the market.

THE SHOULDER-POD PICTURED AT RIGHT is a German-made import that fits all conventional light-weight motion picture cameras such as the Auricons and Arriflex 35mm and 16mm. It leaves the operator's hands entirely free to handle instruments, make camera or sound level adjustments during shooting, or to support himself in precarious situations. Head to which the camera is attached is adjustable for height, direction and distance between operator and camera finder. The supporting bar is also adjustable to allow camera to be used at either left- or right-hand side of operator. Constructed of lightweight aluminum tubing, the shoulder-pod is anchored to operator's waist by means of an adjustable belt.

TV NEWSFILM CAMERAMEN and documentary and travel film producers are discovering the advantages of the shoulder-pod, which not only eases the load and provides more comfortable balance of the camera, but enables them to work faster and more freely in crowds or confined locations.

MEETING THE NEED of peripatetic cameramen for a simple, lightweight shoulder-pod is the S.O.S. Body Brace pictured at right. It offers the double support of a shoulder-pod plus a body brace, providing steadiness, comfort for the cameraman and the ability to aim, tilt, and pan the camera with the same ease as when tripod-mounted. Made of lightweight cast aluminum, it weighs 4½ pounds, and is furnished with standard 3/8" x 18 camera tie-down screw. As pictured, it will easily support the heavier professional 16mm cameras such as the Auricon Pro-600, Arriflex, Maurer, etc. An important feature is collapsible design of the brace, permitting it to be folded compactly for easy storage in camera equipment case.

For more information, see page 256.



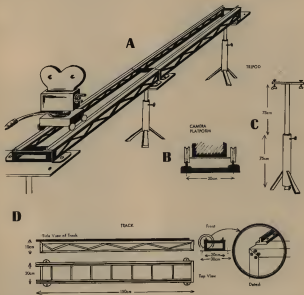
'POCKET-SIZE' CAMERA DOLLY

Affords major production camera mobility on a popcorn budget.

By LEO OZOLS

IT OFTEN HAPPENS in the production of commercial, industrial or documentary films, that the cinematographer must forego the convenience of a camera dolly and tracks because of budget limitations or the great bulk of such equipment, or both, and must limit his camera action or movement to simple panning.

A solution to this problem is a lightweight, portable dolly and tracks which almost any cameraman, with adequate mechanical assistance, can construct himself. Instead of the conventional burdensome dolly, a small, lightweight camera platform on wheels rolls along lightweight, knockdown tracks that, instead of being laid on the floor or ground



are waist-high and supported by adjustable stanchions. (See diagram.)

In my experience of shooting documentary films in remote areas of South America, I have often encountered the need to give my camera mobility. Except for some high-budget productions which could afford dolly equipment, I invariably had to restrict camera movement to panning and tilting.

There frequently were assignments, usually in some new and distant location, where I found myself improvising some device to give mobility to the camera for dolly and traveling shots. It is quite impossible to transport a conventional camera dolly and tracks into the South American wilds; there is no safe and easy way to transport such equipment and the necessary crew and expense would make the production unprofitable. The frequent frustrations which I encountered set me to thinking of ways and means of solving the dolly problem, for me at least, and the equipment illustrated in the accompanying diagram is the result.

I first got the idea for the portable, elevated dolly and tracks when shooting a film in Puerto Rico for the Roosevelt Foundation. Ed Frank, the director, along with a child actor, had come all the way from the United States, and I had journeyed from Venezuela to photograph the picture — only to discover that no camera dolly and tracks were available on the whole island.

Observing the Puerto Rican children racing on the streets with tiny cars made of a piece of lumber and four ball-bearing wheels taken from roller skates gave me an idea. I borrowed one of these from a group of kids and used it as a camera dolly, securing a tripod-mounted camera upon it and using only the street pavement as tracks. Further development of the "pocket-size" dolly evolved when I was commissioned to shoot a commercial film for Alcoa Aluminum. This time I used a toy car for a dolly, mounted an Arriflex camera upon it, and rolled it on a long table which served as dolly tracks. The resulting traveling shots came out very well.

When I returned to Venezuela, following my appointment as Director of the Motion Picture Department of the Los Andes University, I again encountered the problem of no camera dolly. There were no funds to purchase one and as my next project demanded the use of a dolly, I drew upon my previous Puerto Rico experiences and came up with an idea which was subsequently approved by the authorities. In the mechanical shop of the University we began to build it. I put it to use as



TRACKS UNDER NO author's hat of bamboo construction was used by cinematographer Joseph Ross, ABC, in photographing scenes in Puerto Rico for "Borika," which he also directed. Photo shows how the camera operator effects a traveling shot by walking alongside the waist-high tracks and moving the dolly-mounted camera as he goes.

soon as construction was completed and the results more than justified the effort. I was able to make dolly and traveling shots comparable to Hollywood's standards. It is so constructed that the entire equipment can be disassembled and stowed in a Jeep or car in a matter of minutes, and it can be reassembled by one man, if necessary, in a few minutes. No trained dolly crew is required to operate the dolly. As a matter of fact, we use only one man to handle it, and there have been instances where the camera operator alone has managed both the camera and the dolly in making moving camera shots with the equipment.

Construction

The various components of the equipment are illustrated in the diagram. "A" is a sketched view of the equipment in use. "B" is a cross-section detailing the camera platform with its grooved wheels which ride on thin metal rails. "C" shows details of the telescoping, adjustable tripods or stanchions which support the tracks. "D" affords both top and side view of the track construction plus details of the assembly of the metal components of same.

Depending upon the length of the dolly tracks, as many as 3, 4 or more tripods may be required to provide solid support. These are adjustable for height to accommodate the convenience of the camera operator and also to enable the tracks to be used on uneven terrain; here height of the tripods is adjusted to the unevenness of the terrain — much

Continued on Page 296

DIAGRAM AT LEFT illustrates author's "pocket size" camera dolly and tracks, also details of various components. "A" is view of the equipment attached for use. "B" is cross-section detailing the camera car platform, with its grooved wheels which ride on thin metal rails. "C" shows details of the telescoping, adjustable stanchions which support the narrow tracks. "D" affords both top and side view of track construction.



TAMI CASTEJÓN (one out of two in room) aiming to shoot racing motorcycle act in Japan for NBC's "International Showtime," weekly TV series.

LOOKING OVER shoulder of one cameraman shooting mixed martial art in Japan for "International Showtime." Camera is Mitchell 16—one of three cameras used in NBC's Synchro-16 Color system, a new, structurally four production techniques closely suited to photographing program material of this sort.



Shooting "International Showtime" In 16mm Color

16mm color film proves more than adequate for "International Showtime's" debut in growing circle of color TV shows.

By JOSEPH HENRY

NEWSREEL-TYPE PRODUCTION tempered with television techniques may pave the way for wider use of 16mm color film in photographing TV shows on location.

That's the outlook based on NBC's experiences with "International Showtime," an hour-long weekly program featuring foreign circus and ice skating acts.

Thus far, six shows have been filmed in 16mm color and all, according to Norman Grant, NBC's director of color coordination, have been "commercially acceptable" for television.

It was the first time that Grant's Synchro-16 "on location" shooting technique was used for the show. The technique involves use of three motion picture cameras shooting in sync—one equipped with a zoom lens. The cameras simultaneously shoot the acts from different angles to provide variety in the cutting. The sound is recorded on tape in sync with the cameras and combined with the picture when prints are made by the laboratory.

"With this type of show, where filming is done in the field under inflexible time schedules, 16mm color is practical, financially and operationally," Grant explained. "The quality is not up to the standards of 35mm color," Grant said, "but, by and large, NBC has been generally successful with 16mm color."

NBC's "David Brinkley's Journal," "The River Nile," "Vincent Van Cogh—A Self Portrait" and "Shakespeare—Soul of an Age" have all been successfully filmed for television in 16mm color. Other NBC productions using some 16mm color are Sports International, "All-Star Gold" and "Wild Kingdom."

Program-wise, Grant and "International Show-

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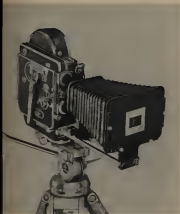
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THE BOLEX MATTE BOX, mounted on sturdy rails before Bolex H-16 camera, showing method of use for copying 35mm slides.

PROFESSIONAL 16MM FILM makers, especially those small independents who turn out TV commercials for their local stations and others, encounter almost daily problems in producing special effects—a film technique that is increasingly demanded in the production of commercials and in industrial, training, educational and technical research films. Working on modest budgets that invariably preclude the inclusion of any but the simplest of optical effects in their productions, many of these producers are taking a page from early day film makers and are now making their effects in the camera using a matte box.

Fades and lap-dissolves of laboratory quality can be made in those 16mm cameras having a variable shutter that can be automatically controlled and where the camera also provides a means of back-winding the film in the camera. With the addition of a matte box, the range of special effects possible is extended to include wipes, split-screen shots, mask shots such as the familiar binocular and key-hole effects, and many others.

Paillard, manufacturer of the Bolex camera, offers a matte box for 16mm cameras of excellent professional design which any 16mm cameraman will find extremely helpful in the production of a wide range of cinematic effects. It is pictured in

A MATTE BOX FOR PRODUCING EFFECTS IN 16MM

By ERNST WILDI

Fig. 1, quite logically mounted before a Bolex H-16 camera—although it is adaptable to other 16mm cameras of similar size.

For the production of special effects in the camera, the matte box used should be of the adjustable bellows type with movable front and rear frames—which the Bolex matte box is. Since many of the masks necessary for producing effects must be placed several inches ahead of the lens in order to insure the desired degree of sharpness in outline or line of demarcation in the film image, the front frame of the matte box should be adjustable to at least 7 inches away from the film plane. The matte box should be firmly mounted to the camera body and should provide adjustment for centering mattes accurately in front of the taking lens. All this, of course, is also possible with the Bolex matte box.

Additionally, the camera operator must be able

WITH MASK mounted for binocular shot





THE MATTE BOX set up for making simple split-screen shots



USING TWO MASKS with V shape cuts and sliding the two together in center is shot, produces unique diamond shaped lens effect

to check, preferably by viewing through the taking lens, to determine if masks are properly centered in the box, if they are positioned at the proper distance, if they are properly sharp in detail, and what stop must be used to achieve the desired depth of field. A reflex camera affording ground glass viewing and focusing, such as the Bolex H-Rex 16 is ideally suited for this work.

The production of matte box effects requires a wide angle lens on the camera—usually a 10mm or 17mm for 16mm cameras.

Range of effects

In the following paragraphs, the most popular uses for the matte box will be described:

The matte box as a sunshade: The Bolex matte box makes a most efficient sunshade. It can be extended to eliminate all unnecessary light reaching

the lens and works well with all but the longest focal length lenses. For further protection with telephoto lenses, a cut-out rectangular mask can be inserted in the front frame.

The matte box as a filter holder: This is among the most popular uses of a matte box, since many of the light-balancing and color-correction filters are available only in gelatin squares. Since the gelatin material is thin and flexible it is usually mounted in a cardboard frame. Most matte boxes have grooves to take two filter mounts of this type.

For copying slides and movie frames: The matte box makes an ideal support for copying color slides and movie frames. The slide to be copied is mounted on a cardboard panel into which a rectangle the size of the slide has been cut. A thoroughly cleaned glass plate also can be used, in which case the slide

Continued on Next Page



METHOD OF shooting side just behind or horizontal panel with small cutout to show scene in distance



FOR EFFECT of camera moving through foliage, mask is mounted in rear frame of matte box and moved to view face while focusing



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MATTE BOX FOR EFFECTS

Continued from Preceding Page

is masked off with black paper or tape. The latter method is particularly recommended for copying movie frames.

The illumination required for such copying consists of a regular photo-flood studio light or SunGun placed several feet in front of the matte box, and with an opal glass placed between light and slide.

"Freezing" an image. In this frequently-used and effective professional technique a subject is first seen completely stationary—as in a still photo—then suddenly starts to move. Perhaps the scene might open with normal movement then suddenly "freeze" for a few seconds, only to start moving again.

First choose the frame—it must be sharp—where the action is to "freeze." If the scene is to open with a "freeze," that would be the first frame. It is then copied on the same type of film as the original, following the technique outlined previously. Make certain that the framing is exactly along the edges of the original frame to prevent displacement of the subject. The new "freeze" scene is then spliced in at the proper place.

Masking scenes with the matte box. The effect of viewing through a pair of binoculars, a keyhole or periscope is easily and accurately produced with the matte box.

Since the outline of the mask in this effect should be slightly out of focus, the distance between the film plane and mask, and also the lens opening and focus settings must be carefully selected. No exposure compensation is necessary when shooting through a mask. Exposure should be based solely on the brightness of the background scene.

The traveling mask. To produce the effect of the camera moving through a keyhole or other mask, move the mask toward or away from the taking lens while filming.

Silhouettes. Some interesting effects can be obtained by shooting through silhouettes showing the outline of a window, doorway, gate, a rail fence, etc. The desired silhouette is cut out of a black paper or cardboard and mounted in the matte box frame, with the background scene visible behind it. In some cases it is best to have the silhouette in sharp focus, in others it

may look more natural slightly out of focus.

The matte box for wipes. Wipes are created by moving a masking device across the front frame of the matte box at the beginning or at the end of a scene. The outline of the mask must be reasonably sharp. The wipe mask can be in many shapes and can move in any direction, vertically or horizontally. For a diagonal wipe, the edge of the mask is simply cut diagonally to the matte box frame. Wipes should be rather quick and should never last more than two seconds. The movement must be as smooth as possible. It is always preferable to have the wipe move in the direction of the action. If, for instance, in a basketball game across the action moves from left to right, the wipe should also move from left to right.

Whenever a scene ends with a wipe, the next scene should open with a wipe, or a fade in. If a wipe, it does not have to be the same shape or move in the same direction as the closing wipe.

Double wipes. Instead of using one masking device for a wipe, two may be used moving from opposite directions and wiping out (or wiping in) the image toward the center. This effect is especially effective with the mask edge cut diagonally to diamond shape or to a zigzag edge. Double wipes are most appropriate with scenes having their main subjects in the center of the frame.

Effect of opening or closing center. A transition often found in professional films is the circle or square which opens or closes a scene, an effect readily obtainable with the matte box (see illustration). Two masks mounted in the front frame are equipped with a triangular cutout (angle of cutout about 60°). They are then moved toward or away from each other, depending on whether an opening or closing effect is desired. This transition is also most effective with scenes having subjects in the center of the frame.

Superimposed wipes. The most professional-looking wipe effect is a double exposure of two converging scenes. The technique is similar to making a lap-dissolve—it calls for a double-exposure of the wipe out and wipe-in. The new scene actually wipes out the first one, creating an extremely striking effect.

The first scene is wiped out by means of a black mask as described previously. The film is now reversed

to the beginning of the wipe out. The new scene is opened with a wipe-in moving in the same direction as the wipe-out. It is most important that the speed of the new wipe in correspond to the speed of the wipe-out. Otherwise the dividing line between the two scenes will be objectionably noticeable. Throughout the wipe, the new scene should cover exactly the area wiped off the previous scene, not more, not less. With a little practice this can be done with perfection.

The matte box for split-frame scenes: The most familiar type of split frame scene pictures a person sharing a scene with himself. To obtain this effect, right and left halves of the picture are filmed separately with one half always masked off. The mask must be several inches in front of the lens to appear slightly out of focus. It is not mandatory that exactly half the frame be masked off. The masking can be done anywhere within a scene; vertical or diagonal splits are possible and a scene can be split more than twice. For instance, it is possible to combine four different sports in one scene, each covering $\frac{1}{4}$ of the area, as frequently done in some newsreel openings.

Split-frame filming is designed not only for comedy or mystery purposes. It has many applications in industrial and other professional filming. One can show a new and old building or piece of machinery simultaneously on the screen. In a sales promotion film or a television commercial one can show the old and new method of performing a task, or the advantages of one product over another, side by side on the screen. A chart showing sales or production figures can occupy half of a frame while the president of a company delivers his message on the other half, a title can cover part of the frame a regular scene the remainder.

Special split-frame effects. Some of the most striking split-frame effects seen in professional films, and usually

produced in the laboratory, can be made with the matte box. For instance you can shoot a scene in which your own movie is shown on television.

The scene is the interior of a man with a TV set facing the camera. The picture on the television tube is to show your own film your children or pets playing on your home-produced dramatic show. It is only necessary to shoot this indoor scene with the television screen masked off, cap the lens and wind back the film, then superimpose over it the scene to be seen on television with everything but the TV screen area masked off. In a similar fashion, action can be shown on a projection screen.

The matte box for titling. The Bolex Matte Box can also serve as a compact, portable titler, especially valuable for superimposing a black title over a live action scene. The title card can be made in a number of ways: it can be painted, drawn or hot pressed on a sheet of clear acetate, or titling letters can be mounted on the acetate or the glass plate.

The matte box for superimposed animation. The matte box permits combining animation with live action scenes, an almost unmatched field with limitless possibilities in all types of motion pictures. Here are some simple examples. A painted arrow can be superimposed over a live action scene, pointing out an important item on a machine, in a medical specimen, in an aerial view, in a motion study sequence. Charts or figures can be superimposed over the actual scene.

The matte box for creative experiments. The matte box can be used to hold all types of other things in front of the taking lens, producing an almost unlimited variety of effects.

A glass plate can be partly or completely covered with a coating of vaseline or lipstick to add an element of mystery to a scene, or to produce an out-of-focus effect at the end or beginning of a scene. Scenes can be filmed through all types of glasses or plastic materials to produce deliberate distortions or through sheets of colored gelatin. Effects that, up to now, have never been possible to produce in a practical manner on the original film can now be made easily by using a matte box in combination with today's versatile Ilexon cameras.

A booklet describing in full detail how each of these matte box effects are made is available free from Pauline, Inc., 106 Sixth Avenue, New York 13, N. Y.—Eaton.



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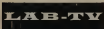
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PRODUCERS SERVICE HOUSE

Continued from Page 277

pleasing result. This project worked out very well and today the sequence is being used in an Army training film.

In many cases, the producer comes to the service house for advice before he shoots a TV commercial requiring special treatment. This often saves him time and expense in his work because he then understands how the desired effects can be attained. A good example of this involved a film made for Eastman Kodak Company where the producer wanted a ghost shown throughout the production, darting in and out of scenes in order to point out safety hazards and methods of correction.

The Eastman film was in color but the producer wanted a white ghost. The service house recommended shooting the ghost against a dark background on black-and-white film. When this was done, the color film and ghost film were delivered to the service house. Here, the job required superimposing the ghost over the color scenes, at the same time maintaining a constant degree of transparency for the ghost.

In order to maintain the position of the ghost in some scenes where the registration with the background scenes was critical, both conventional and aerial image projectors were employed on the printer. In this case, too, both films were projected, positioned and photographed simultaneously. In addition to repositioning many of the scenes to make the ghost fit properly, it was necessary to make a series of exposure tests in order to retain the desired ghost effect through out the presentation.

Another recent project required a glass of beer to be superimposed over a live background scene. The producer wanted the scene to show through the clear beer but not through the foam and not through the view of the goblet. This was accomplished by using color separation lines a color negative to make images of the beer, then running the various elements through the printer. This allowed careful control over the degree of exposure and provided the desired effect. The background scene was clearly visible through the beer and at the same time, the beverage appeared live and appetizing. Fig. 2 shows the three

separate components: the outdoor scene, the glass of beer, and the beer superimposed over the outdoor scene.

Frequently, a producer wants an effect where people or objects must be shown in a size that is out of proportion with respect to surrounding props or scenery. In such scenes, closeup films are made of normal-size objects. Mates are prepared and one film is blown up when it is projected on the printer to create the giant and midjet effect. Some startling results are possible with this technique. One recent job involved a tiny Peter Pan alongside a mammoth jar of peanut butter, as shown in Fig. 4. Here, Peter Pan is actually a live person who moves around the jar and looks at it longingly.

Occasionally, a producer comes to the service house with nothing more than an idea or a title and he wants creative help in developing this spark into the final product. A recent case of this kind dealt with the title scene for the feature movie "The Sky Above and The Mud Below." The project involved artwork, design and photography. This job, shot on the animation stand, showed a cannibal's spear and other unique animated effects that added a great deal of interest to the title scene.

The background was stylized as a drawing to represent jungle surroundings in New Guinea where the live action takes place. Ideally demonstrating the current demands that must be met by the service house today, this project utilized the complete facilities of the art department. It developed the concept, conferred with the producers and plans were approved, then finalized the drawings.

Lettering was prepared, overlays were made for moving objects thru

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about the shoulder supported camera and shoulder supports for 16mm cameras pictured on pages 284 and 285, write us the following:

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transition was accomplished by panning in certain objects and by moving the camera to get transition effects between titles. A great deal of work can go into a take, it can take hours or weeks to create the wanted results. This job depends on the amount of artwork required and on the complexity of the shooting.

The producers service house is frequently called upon to prepare maps for documentary shows such as CBS's "Twentieth Century" and NBC's "Project Twenty." The type of scene is often used to deal with troop movements, to illustrate a threat created by political situations, or to show the relationships between the two countries. In such cases, movement is represented by a moving line or by shaded areas. The work is performed as an Oscherry animation stand where lines or shaded areas on cels are super imposed and moved over the map

background. Sometimes the effect is accomplished by scratching off lines and shooting the process in reverse, or by actually painting a cel or line.

From the problems described above, the reader can readily get the answer to the question "Why is the Producers Service Business Booming?" The hard-ground producer is in no position to maintain the staff of experts and the costly machines that are needed for today's jobs. Most important, he must hold his expense to a minimum to meet competition. He is able to do this by utilizing the aid of the producers service house to execute the intricate and complex visual effects increasingly called for today in the scripts for TV commercials, industrial and other films. Here, high volume production and modern equipment provide superior results at the lowest possible cost.

PHOTOGRAPHING FILMS FOR TELEVISION

Continued from Page 280

lighting on sets for any of the TV shows I have photographed.

Personally, I dislike flat lighting and I avoid using units such as cone lights from the floor, although I have on occasion used them for fill light. But I prefer more directional light, cross lighting, more contrast—lighting with lots of guts.

When you photograph films for television you have to be more careful in delineating action against backgrounds because the ultimate picture, as seen on home receivers, is small. A dark figure against a dark background on a TV screen is difficult to see. So a bit of edge or kicker light on the figure will at least suggest his presence as such a scene, even when TV reception is bad.

Ted McCord's photography of the feature, "Two For The Show," is a fine example of light artistically and realistically used. No unnecessary or unmotivated lighting was employed anywhere. Where there was no call for it, McCord avoided use of back light and sometimes fill light. The same principal is valid for TV film lighting; however, one may have to use a little more separation, fill or accent light than might be used in shooting the same scene for theatre screens in order to compensate for the loss of detail in herald in TV transmission.

I am categorically opposed to using obviously un-motivated lighting. If, in a scene, a player is standing in shadow, as when under some overhanging shelf or ledge, for example, I won't worry too much about separation except that which I can control in the background in a natural way.

Q—To summarize, then, would you say that certain limiting factors of the television medium and especially of the small screens of home TV receivers more or less dictate the lighting techniques employed today by cameramen who photograph television films?

A—Yes.

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CAMERA DOLLY

Continued from Page 287

the same as wedges are drawn for the same purpose under the tumbler of conventional dolly tracks laid on the ground. The two tracks or rails are then laid on the platforms of the tripods and secured by bolts and wing-nuts. The rail sections are in short lengths to facilitate erection of the track to any suitable length.

The tripod rails and the camera "car" all are made of lightweight aluminum. Grooved plastic rollers serve as wheels. We found that plastic wheels provided a softer and therefore quieter run on the tracks than metal ones. We also learned that wheels should not be too small in diameter; smaller wheels create more vibration which seriously affect camera steadiness. The larger the wheels, the better, but this is a factor which depends upon one's need for compactness of the equipment.

When erecting the dolly tracks on uneven ground, there is never the need to move a single grain of sand or to smooth the surface with a shovel; the adjustable tripods take care of deviations in the ground surface as already stated. The only time there is any digging to do is when the tracks are used in wilderness brush areas, where a path for the camera operator must be cleared alongside the tracks so that he can walk along with the camera during the making of a tracking shot.

This "pocket-size" dolly and track equipment was specifically designed for use with cameras such as the 35mm Arriflex and 16mm cameras of similar weight and size. For heavier cameras, such as a Mitchell BNC, it would be necessary to use more sturdy and heavier construction in both the tracks and the dolly itself.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Tracks and dolly similar to the author's were used by cinematographer Joseph Bean, ASC, the early part of 1962, while producing and photographing the feature film, "Elosha" in Puerto Rico—an experience he described in an article in the September, 1962, issue of *American Cinematographer*, on page 540. The equipment was pictured in one of the illustrations and is reproduced in this issue, on page 287.

We queried Gude about this equipment, asking if he designed it. "The tracks and dolly pictured in Joseph

Brun's article," he replied, "were not designed nor constructed by me. As a matter of fact, my equipment was not built in Puerto Rico but right here in Venezuela. The equipment shown in the Joseph Brun photo is much heavier than mine and obviously constructed to support a much heavier camera, such as the Mitchell.

"As to the origin of the tracks used by Brun, I offer the following: while working in Puerto Rico about two years ago, I encountered Jim Sheldon, an American and at that time the only professional motion picture prop man in Puerto Rico. He was also an excellent carpenter, capable electrician and all around handyman. He was free-lancing—if such can be said about his profession—working for small local film producers and foreign motion picture companies shooting on location in P.R. He was wonderfully inventive, an ideal man for a prop man. He built a small sound stage for Deke Films and designed and built sets for Virgie Films—both local companies.

"We got together one day over glass of La India beer, a local product, and together we discussed a possible solution for a mutual problem—the great need for and the lack of suitable camera dollies and tracks for Puerto Rico film production. The elevated 'pocket-size' dolly-and-tracks idea was hatched about as a possibility. I saw no more of Jim Sheldon after that pleasant visit and shortly thereafter, returned to Venezuela.

"It is likely, however, that both of us again gave some thought to the idea we discussed, with the result we did something about it when the need for dolly and tracks again arose. One reason I believe the equipment used by Brun was made by Jim Sheldon is that it appears to be ruggedly built to accommodate the heavy motion picture production cameras which European and American film companies bring to Puerto Rico when on location there. Moreover, it is hard to believe that there is any other person in Puerto Rico capable of designing and building such equipment.

"And besides, there was the discussion we had about a 'pocket-size' dolly that day over a glass of beer."

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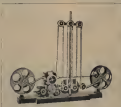


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"THE BALCONY"

Continued from Page 271

authority figures they represent and enjoying the adulation of the populace—so much so, in fact, that they decide to hold onto their assumed authority. They are promptly adulated by the Chief of Police who reminds them that he still controls the real power, that of force. In the final sequence, however, the Chief and the erstwhile leader of the rebels are guillotined on by the "ladies" of the establishment in a scene reminiscent of the climactic scene in "Suddenly Last Summer." Stripped of their fancy uniforms and shorn of their protective physiological facades the two former "ladies" are turned out to skulk ignominiously through the streets of the city. The unperturbed Miss Winters then turns to the audience and advises the viewers to go to their own homes and beds where everything will be even plainer than it appeared to be in the film.

If the plot seems confused, the nature is not. It is a brilliantly obscure, sometimes funny, sometimes shocking work of protest against the false aspects of modern life. Sensibly, the producers of the film have cut through the nebulous symbolism of the play to expose the raw meat of the theme, and Director of Photography Folsey has managed to create a visual sense of almost-real fantasy without resorting to photographic gimmicks or arty optical effects. His photography is black-and-white and 185-to 1 aspect ratio is smooth and rich in the highest professional style—quite unlike the poor photography that marks so many art films.

Since the picture was conceived as an attempt to view the whole world as a thing of illusion, a motion picture sound stage was logically selected as the ultimate place of the illusion. Visually there was an effort to get onto the film a feeling of the essential sleekness characteristic of the enormous backlot construction of major studios—emphasizing that kind of cheap-beautiful texture that seems to say: "This has been an illusion-making device that is now weathered by the years, but still has a substance of its own."

Inside the stage there are no sets in the conventional sense—only fragments of walls, corners of darkness, pieces of canvas and pools of light, a mélange of devices completely different from the sets used in an ordinary mo-

tion picture. Even the two areas that might conceivably be called sets, in the usual sense, are clearly established as not being that at all. The first, the Waters bed-chamber, is given an illusion of glamour and solidity by "walls" that turn out to be gossamer strands of cloth. The other is the office of the "establishment"—solid looking enough on the inside, but quite obviously formed of backless and topless flats but tied together.

In the establishing shot of the stage, the vast expanse seems to be dotted with tiny sets and pools of light. The sets are actually nothing but arrangements of ladders, chains, rugs and pieces of cloth hanging down beside fragmentary walls or flats. A stairway, part of the permanent geography of the stage, which leads up to the catwalk around the circling, is also used. In material terms there was actually little, but it was made to take form through ingenuity.

Standard tools of picture-making—such as backings, drops, photo-panels and sewared clips were thrown together in a helter-skelter manner designed to say "Can you find any ordinary way of looking at things and let go for a bit." This is in key with the underlying idea of the film that most people go through life playing a kind of charade, acting out roles that others expect of them, whereas what is really valuable is that which each person has as an individual, rather than the facade he assumes in order to conform to accepted standards. That idea is expressed in the film by portraying real situations as charades, suggesting that everything in life is a pose, to a certain extent.

Photographically the theme is carried out through the use of simple but effective techniques. For example, in one scene a realistic view of a Cape Cod cottage fills the screen. Suddenly a live character, all out of proportion to the cottage, walks in front of it and we realize that we have actually been viewing a huge painted background mural. A similar effect is created when another player suddenly overcomes a panoramic vista of Monument Valley. In another sequence, a judge harangues a sober-faced, attentive jury. Only when the camera cuts to a side angle do we realize that the "jurors" are actually live-size photographic rats mounted in a jury box.

Long shots of the "establishment" encompassed the entire social stage. In

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cluding the sound-padded walls. The stage, located at KTTV studios in Hollywood, measured 100 x 65 feet. A problem was to make it appear much larger, as if it extended to infinity. Shooting with an extreme wide-angle lens helped create this illusion, but something more was needed. Foley conceived the idea of setting a group of studio lights in a perspective line that would stretch the full length of the stage. Instead of using lamps of uniform size, however, he placed the largest lamp closest to the camera and graduated the sizes down to a Dimby baby at the far end. The lamps were all set on dimmers so that their brightness would balance and the depth of the perspective was thus visually increased.

In our sequence Foley was confronted with the challenge of leading visual interest to a long, empty hallway made up of loosely assembled flats and doorways against a backdrop visible above the tops of the flats in the long shot. Having little in the way of props or set decorations to work with, he created a dramatic effect by bringing cross light in through openings and shattered windows, playing light against shadow. He also beamed shafts of light onto the looking-in contrast to the dark edges of the flats, breaking up the solid expanse of wall by working one element against the other and increasing the illusion of depth through the forced perspective of the wide-angle lens. The resultant effect, far from being flat, has depth and texture on a highly dramatic level.

Boldly defying cinematographic canons, Foley filmed one entire sequence, closeups and all, with an 18mm wide-angle lens. The action, which takes place inside a tent, involved the make-believe cavalry general in a startling dialogue with a ravishing female "horse" equipped with her very own mane and an erect tail. The purpose of the unorthodox photographic approach in this sequence was to include as much as possible of the provocative background in each composition, even when the camera moved in for big-head closeups. The inevitable distortion in the closer shots was not regarded as a liability; rather, it was welcomed as subtly intensifying the fantasy of the situation.

In another somewhat revolutionary departure from standard filming technique, the director encouraged the actors to improvise their action rather than follow precisely blocked move-

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ment, the theory being that they would be able to concentrate on performance instead of being concerned with hitting specific marks. Since follow-focus now became somewhat catch-as-catch-can, Finney decided to increase depth-of-field by lighting at a key high enough to permit stopping down the lens to f/8. He also switched from DuPont Superior 2 to the somewhat faster Eastman Double X.

He had started out using a Fearless dolly, but soon discovered that this was not nimble enough to hold contact with the freely-improvising actors and that a great deal of time was being lost in rekeying dolly tracks. The problem was solved by substituting a crab dolly capable of swinging easily in any direction to cover unexpected moves. Admitting that such improvisation created problems on the stage and in the control room, Director Strick, nevertheless, maintains that the results justify the means: "There are a couple of violent deliberate mis-matches in the picture," he points out. "There is even one in which an actress changes from one costume to another in the midst of a continuous walk—with direct cuts made back and forth to the original

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scene—and nobody notices it. I feel that too much attention is paid to the matching of backgrounds and action. Granted that this may improve the technical finish of a picture, there is danger of becoming a slave to the script girl, if you are not careful. I feel that if you are really getting something beautiful whether it matches or not is unimportant, and to stop the scene simply because someone has a handkerchief in the wrong hand is nonsense. As long as the dramatic intensity of the scene holds up, no one will notice the mismatch."

One of the most visually effective sequences in the film involved action taking place between two huge opposing mirrors set up directly across from each other, so that a multiplicity of images extended off into infinity. The only practical way to achieve the effect was to shoot through a transparent two-way mirror into the set. By taking a meter reading of the key light normally used to light such a sequence and then taking another reading of the light through the mirror, Foley established the fact that the mirror cut the light down the equivalent of three stops. As a result, he established the formula of lighting the set three times "hotter" than normal for the mirror shots and found that they printed the same as, and could be intercut with, scenes shot normally. He gives a great deal of credit for consistency of exposure in the film to use of the new, improved Spectra meter developed by Karl Freund, A.S.C., maintaining that, "I have found no other meter that does the job as well."

George Foley, a camera pioneer in Hollywood, was for many years one of MGM's top cinematographers, filming such outstanding pictures as, "The Ziegfeld Follies," "Meet Me in St. Louis," "Green Dolphin Street," "Executive Suite," "Forbidden Planet," and "Seven Brides for Seven Brothers." Of his recent experience in photography, "The Balcony" he says, "I have been a cameraman for forty three years and I can't think of another picture that I've enjoyed more, had less trouble with and more satisfaction in doing."

Use of Pola-Screen

The use of a Kodak Pola-Screen for controlling brightness of the sky has a number of advantages over the use of color filters. The color rendering of foreground objects is not altered, and the effect produced by the filter is easily determined by viewing through it.

"INTERNATIONAL SHOWTIME"

Continued from Page 288

time's" executive producers and participants, Lawrence White and Joseph Gates, found the mobility of 16mm equipment enabled the crew to get shots that would otherwise have been impractical in schedule. One of these was a high wire act that was filmed with the camera high, near the top of the circus tent.

The first complete color film show of "International Showtime" evolved from NBC's decision to do a "color week" in October, 1962. Up to then, the show had been taped in black-and-white. At the time there were no color taping facilities where the show was being shot.

Originally it was intended that the show be shot in 16mm color, but in a virtual last-minute switch in plans the producers decided to use 16mm color and the Synchro 16 technique.

A show in Ravenna, Italy, was the first recorded in 16mm color. Though previous shows were recorded on tape and the news film crew doing the photography had little knowledge of "International Showtime" production techniques, some remarkable photography resulted from their initial efforts.

Using lighter and more mobile 16mm equipment the crew was able to move around the circus grounds for interesting shots as the tents were erected. Overlayed with titles, these scenes introduced the show.

"The color made it just as exciting as real-life," Grant said. "And there were some locations where a five TV camera couldn't go, but were accessible to the 16mm film camera," he added.

The one-hour Ravenna show took three days to shoot, and 12 days of editing, cutting, mixing and production of answer prints. With more experience, the 12 days of editing probably could have been cut to four.

However, from what the producers learned in Italy, later they were able to shoot five one-hour Japanese shows in eight shooting days. (A one-hour Hollywood-produced dramatic TV show, like "Bonanza" and "Emmer," takes five to six days to film.) Director of Photography Joseph Brua, ASC, was accompanied by a crew of three from the United States. The balance of the film crew was Japanese. Brua's color photography brought new visual excitement to "International Showtime" on the February 1 broadcast of the

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show. In addition to filming a high
tension act from above, with a hand-
held camera, he captured a highly
dramatic low-angle shot of our tempo-
rarily actor as he fell into the safety net.
Unusual audience reaction shots further
heightened the presentation.

Each segment of "International Show-
time" occupies an hour of TV air
time, minus time for commercials, and
while each show may take no more
than two days to shoot, the pre-produc-
tion planning may take months. Foreign
circuits, particularly European, live a
gypsy-like existence and move about
the countryside playing one day stands.
This requires producers White and
Cates to scout each show thoroughly,
filming the various acts and analyzing
them for any unusual camera coverage
they offered. Even the circus tent—
their size, color, etc.—are considered
for whatever pictorial interest they may
present for color photography. In the
case of the Revere show, one of the
reasons it was chosen for the first "In-
ternational Showtime" show to be
photographed in color was that the tent
interior was a pleasing blue color,
which NBC's color consultants deemed to
be the most compatible as a back-

ground against which to photograph
the various acts.

Once a show is chosen as a subject
for "International Showtime," it is
contracted for then kept under sur-
veillance until the camera equipment is
moved in.

Meanwhile, the producers are ever
vigilant that none of the acts are
changed in any way or that the timing
has been varied. Sometimes, this is
difficult. Once, a show, which was
signed, ran two hours and 15 minutes.
Before it was finally taped, the show
length varied from two hours to two
hours and 45 minutes. Pre-production
preparation also includes planning of
camera angles, what lenses to use,
where to spot the lighting; and how
to erect the scaffolding to hold the
equipment. Finally, the shows are
filmed in their entirety in a single run
through, act-by-act, before a test audi-
ence.

In producing a show of this type
for television, mobility of camera and
crew outside the tent is almost as im-
portant as during the show itself. With
filming, as compared with video-taping,
all necessary camera equipment ex-
clusive of lights can be transported in
a large steamer trunk.

All the circus shows for "Inter-
national Showtime" were photographed
with Eastman Kachibrose Commercial
film, Type 7255, in the camera. Prints
for presentation in the United States
were made on Eastman Color Reversal
Print film, Type 3259. For color tele-
vision, the producers aver, Type 7255
16mm color film in the camera gives
excellent results.

All of the "Showtime" shows that in
color were edited ahead. That was an
unusually laborious job considering
that the editors had three batches of
film from three camera shooting

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simultaneously to work with. Despite the abundance of footage, it provided flexibility in editing never before available to the "Showtime" staff. With ample coverage from three different angles, some highly dramatic and exciting moments were cut and edited for each show.

Despite the success had in shooting the initial group of color shows in 16mm Ektachrome Commercial, the producers have no illusion that 16mm color film will replace 35mm color. "But it has its place in certain programming situations," they point out.

Predicting a bright future for their type of TV show, the producers declare there is a greater demand today for actuality than for many studio-produced shows. "And when you do these shows in 16mm color," they add, "you can get so very much with so little equipment. We wouldn't hesitate to go anywhere or to shoot any kind of a show for television in 16mm color."

BEHIND THE CAMERAS

Continued from Page 364

INDEPENDENT

WILLIAM MILLER, ASC, *Letter, Cakes, ASC, "The Greatest Story Ever Told" (Gene Sargent Prod., UA release; P/Vision & Camera in Technicolor) with Max V. Sydow and Charles Heston. George Stevens, producer-director.*

CORRIN HALL, "Sassy Sassy" (Daphne). Joe MacDONALD, ASC, "Kings of the Sea" (Metroland Prod., UA release; P/Vision & Camera color, shooting in Mexico) with Yul Brynner and George Chakiris. J. Lee Thompson, director.

ROBERT KAMMER, "The Fall of the Roman Empire" (Savoy-Bowdoin Prod., Ultra P/Vision & Technicolor, shooting in Spain) with Sophia Loren and Stephen Boyd. Anthony Mann, director.

ERNEST LAGOLD, ASC, "Fanny's Victor Deeds Story" (Fred Bass Prods.) with Don Murray and Dana Wyndy. David Siodman, director.

JOHN V. MCKELIA, "The Incredible Sardinia Chase" (Wheeler & Suggs) and "Became a Mixed up Zephyr" (Horgan Studios Prods., Eastman color) with Grahame Smith and Carolyn French. Ray Dennis Steadley, director.

MELVIN STERNBERG, "Man in the Water" (Key West Films, shooting in Florida Keys) with Mark Stevens and Jack Donaghy. Mark Stevens, director.

TEX MOORE, "Four Hours, With Love" (Egan Prod., shooting in London) with Sara Corbrey and Pedro Armendariz. Terrance Young, director.

LINWOOD DAVIS, ASC, "The Long Corridor" (Lewy Productions) Special Effects.

LINWOOD DAVIS, ASC, JAMES GORDON, ASC, "A Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad" (Stanley Kramer U.A.) Special Effects.



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QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Continued from Page 265

And, the sound that is recorded on stripe by a professional recorder has its own quality limitation in playback, based on such projection factors as close and constant contact with the magnetic playback head, consistent thickness and smoothness of the magnetic coating, effective steadiness of movement over the sound head—plus the distribution limitation of fewer magnetic than optical projections in the field, and the hazard of either intentional or unintentional alteration of the track. For these reasons, the use of magnetic sound tracks on release prints has been rather limited.

However, the fact remains that the quality can be quite good, and there are other unquestioned, special-use advantages.

For one thing, the producer can use a stripe on his edited work print to record a temporary version of what will be the finished sound track, in order to present both picture and sound to his sponsor or film buyer for approval. Of course, this type of presentation has been used ever since sound came in, but prior to magnetic striping this required the use of costly facilities to play back the separate sound track or tracks. This meant the producer had to get the customer into his own production studio, or into a recording studio equipped to handle both sound and picture on separate machines. With magnetic stripe and a magnetic projector, the presentation becomes portable—the striped and edited work print can be taken anywhere for the approval showing.

This type of sound presentation usually results in a continuous projection session and eliminates the tendency to interruption, as when a script is read against the edited picture. However, after the first run, changes can be made, easily and economically as compared to the considerable cost involved in making changes in a final recorded optical track. The flexibility of a magnetic sound track is of perhaps the greatest value to the user of a film.

For prints to be used abroad—by industry, governmental agencies, church missions, or others—it has proved useful to have a full-width (100 mil) magnetic stripe on which the exhibitor, using his own magnetic-optical projector, may then record the language, dialect, or subject matter desired for

showing to a particular audience, and to change the track again for the next audience, if necessary. Assuming the availability of a magnetic projector recorder, a different language or a different interpretation of subject matter can be recorded on the print, on the spot. Or, with a magnetic stripe (50 mil) covering half the "normal" optical track area, a print may be run using either the optical sound head to reproduce the sound on the optical track (say, English), or on the magnetic head, to reproduce whatever sound the print owner wanted to record on the half-stripe (say, Spanish). This involves some loss of quality on the photo track, but it is still intelligible.

The magnetic stripe on film has its definite values, as another specialized and in certain types of limited production, in speeding and smoothing production approvals, in reducing sound track costs on sample or small print orders, and in providing a valuable flexibility for changing the material on the track in the field.

WHAT'S NEW

Continued from Page 272

sage photo light performance characteristics in a low line-voltage situation as is possible with standard 120-volt line output.



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The newly designed Camart tripod triangle, available through The Camera Mart, Inc., 8815 Broadway, New York 20, features center construction with a recessed casing to eliminate untidy hinges. One stationary triangle bar arm and two movable bar arms allow the triangle to be collapsed into flat position when not in use. All-aluminum construction of centerpiece channel and bar arms provide durability. All nuts, screws and bolts are nickel-chromium plated for rust protection. Shows for tripod leg tips are deep cut at 45 degree with a stop rest for safety.

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A Data Sheet describing these mattes is available upon request from Arriflex Corporation of America, 257 Park Avenue South, New York 10, New York.

INDUSTRY NEWS

Continued from Page 258

Chuck Austin Returns To N.Y.

Chuck Austin, ASC, currently on an extensive marketing survey through out the U.S. for the Mitchell Camera Corp., advises his twelve-month special assignment will be completed in June. He will return from Hollywood to New York in July to resume his activities as a director of photography.

Corrections

In the picture caption accompanying the article "The Pro Shows The Students How" in our February issue (p. 94) we erred in naming Terry Sanders as the camera operator. Mike Neyman was cameraman and is shown behind the Mitchell camera in the picture.

Also, in same issue, we erroneously stated that Camera Service Center of New York had been named distributor of the new Edlar Motion reflex camera. result of misinterpreting a news release, CSC informs us this is incorrect; that they have purchased this outstanding new camera and will have it available for rental and sale through its sales affiliate, Camera Sales Center Corp., 433 W. 52nd St.—EDITOR.

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